telephone connection working at his residence be given to Director (PHE), Deptt. of Telecom., New Delhi immediately.

Sd/-
(G.S.S. MURTHY)
Sr. Dy. Director General (CS)

[English]

Telephone System in Faridkot

413. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor functioning of the telephone system in Faridkot and its surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve and streamline the telephone system in the district;

(c) the number of villages and the names of the area which are yet to be linked by the telephone system in the district; and

(d) the present position of waiting list for telephone connections in the Faridkot constituency and the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Telephone services in Faridkot and its surroundings areas are working satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) All the villages in Faridkot district have already been linked by telephone system.

(d) The total waiting list of Faridkot constituency as on 30th June, 1997 is 15902. The same is likely to be cleared within to years.

[Translation]

Theft of Slabs in Bokaro Steel Plant

414. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any case of theft of slabs from Bokaro Steel Plant worth crores of rupees had come to the notice few years ago;

(b) if so, the level of the personnels involved therein;

(c) whether any action was taken against them;

(d) whether the CBI also inquired in that case; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) A case of theft was reported in the night of 4/5 March, 1993 involving four trucks loaded with cut slabs/steel casting weighing approximately 43 tonnes and valued at about Rs. 3 lakhs.

(b) The incident involved 5 employees of CISF including one Deputy Inspector General, two sub Inspectors and two Head Constables; seven employees of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) including one Senior Operator and six Operators and nine non-BSL persnnel.

(c) All the employees of BSL & CISF excepting Deputy Inspector General were placed under suspension. BSL Management had also lodged an FIR.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On completion of investigation, chargesheets were filed by CBI before the Court of Special Magistrate, Dhanbad, where the case is under trial.

[Translation]

Daily Waiting List

415. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the daily waiting list of each Bihar bound train from Delhi particularly during the marriage season;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce special trains on such occasions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce a long distance train reserved with seating arrangement only so that the needy persons can board it to reach Delhi as thousands of passengers come from Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Saurashtra, Surat and Baroda;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to introduce passenger train for common people for every-where keeping in view the facilities minimised by operating the Rajdhani, Shatabadi and Deluxe trains and reduction of

compartments therein;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government have made arrangements to ensure that food, tea, snacks and potable water are easily available to the passengers at the cheaper rates; and

(i) if so, the time by which the said arrangements are likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The daily list in most of the Bihar bound trains was more than 300 in sleeper class on many days from 15th April to 30th June, 1997.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During Summer 1997 (April to June), a biweekly special between Delhi-Barauni, a triweekly between Delhi-Patna and a triweekly between Howrah-Jammu Tawi via Gaya-Delhi were planned and run. During the peak, i.e. 9th to 22nd May'97, 12 additional pairs of specials were run between Delhi-Barauni to clear the extra rush.

(d) to (g) It is proposed to provide the following additonal facilities serving people of Bihar from August, 1997 :-

(i) Delhi-Hatia Swarna Jayanti Express (biweekly predominantly having 2nd class accommodation.

(ii) Surat-Patna Express (weekly).

(iii) Delhi-Muzaffarpur Express (weekly).

(iv) Tata-Katihar Link Express.

(h) Yes, Sir. Satisfactory catering services are provided to travelling passengers at reasonable rates. Drinking water is also available at all the stations.

(i) Does not arise.

Recovery of Loan from SEBs

416. SHRI RAVINDER KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has warned the National Thermal Power Corporation that if it did not give a firm assurance regarding realisation of its outstanding amount from State Electricity Boards, the loans likely to be sanctioned to it in future would be stopped;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of amount outstanding against various State Electricity Boards upto June, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for realising this outstanding amount so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The World Bank has indicated to NTPC that it may have to resort to suspension of the existing loans and defer new loans to NTPC in case urgent remedial action is not taken by it to improve the position of receivables. Government of India has been assisting NTPC to reduce its receivables to the levels as per the covenants entered by it with the World Bank

(c) The details of amount outstanding against various SEBs as on 30.6.1997 are given in the Annexure.

(d) Reducing the quantum of outstanding dues is being consistently followed up by NTPC with the defaulting States/SEBs. In case of large defaulters, the power supply is also sometimes regulated. The Central Government has also decided in October, 1996 that supply of power, henceforthwith, should only be against advance payments or opening of irrevocable Lettters of Credit. Government of India has also been facilitating NTPC to recover its dues from States through adjustments from devolutions due from the Centre to the States.

Statement

NTPC's outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards and other beneficiaries as on 30.6.1997

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/ Organisations	Outstanding dues	Surcharge billed	Total Outstanding
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh SEB	84450	32943	117393
Rajasthan SEB	-2945	15714	12769
Delhi Vidyut Board	81538	10450	91988
Punjab SEB	1164	322	1486
Haryana SEB	5752	12739	18491